(c) According to the latest figures available from United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), there were about 7.59 million international tourist arrivals in Singapore in 2006 as compared to 4.45 million foreign tourist arrivals in India.

(d) India has been achieving consistently a high growth rate of 13.3%, 13.5% and 12.4% in foreign tourist arrivals in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively. Some of the important steps being taken to attract more foreign tourists in India include the integrated development of tourist infrastructure at tourist circuits and destinations, growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels, augmentation of air capacity, enhancing availability of skilled manpower, according greater focus in emerging markets particularly in the regions of China, North-East Asia and South-East Asia and international publicity campaigns through the electronic and print media, etc.

Development of tourist resort in Orissa

2465. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government proposes to develop a tourist resort near the Dakhinapur reservoir, which would provide water sports, floating restaurants and picnic spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to help this State for effective execution of this project, to improve the economy of this region?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ Union Territories themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories for grant of Central financial assistance every year under the following schemes:

(i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits

(ii) Large Revenue Generating projects

(iii) Fairs and Festivals/Events

(iv) Information Technology

No proposal has been submitted by the Government of Orissa to Ministry of Tourism regarding development of a tourist resort near the Dakhinapur reservoir.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned tourism projects to the tune of Rs. 7235.39 lakh and Rs. 2327.05 lakh for the State of Orissa in the Tenth Plan and in the year 2007-08 respectively.

Medical tourism

2466. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Medical Tourism is gaining ground in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith figures for the last two years; and